



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Benton County CSEPP Employee Honored

Richland, Wash.: Mike Harris, emergency planner for Benton County Emergency Management (BCEM), received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Award for Superior Service during the National Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Workshop in Chicago last week.

James Kish, Acting Assistant Administrator, Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA National Integration Center, presented Harris the award for his planning contributions to the Umatilla CSEPP community and expertise in setting up the CSEPP Multi-Agency Coordinating System.

Harris was one of 11 CSEPP professionals to receive recognition before the assembly of nearly 400 CSEPP staffers from around the country.

“Mike has been instrumental in implementing a number of programs to enhance our ability to respond to a potential incident at the Umatilla Chemical Depot,” said BCEM Manager Bob Spencer. “His work has helped Benton County to be one of the best prepared in the nation, not only for a CSEPP emergency response, but also with any other disaster that could hit our community.”

In addition to his day-to-day responsibilities at BCEM, Mike volunteers as a firefighter with Benton County Fire Protection District 1 serving as the district’s safety officer. He and his wife Betty live in Kennewick with their two sons.

The CSEPP program is a unique multi-jurisdictional partnership consisting of DHS/FEMA, the Department of Army, state, local and tribal governments.

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FEMA

